



# U.S. Magnesium Proposed for the National Priorities List

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY    REGION 8    SEPTEMBER 2008

## Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with support from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), is proposing to list the U.S. Magnesium site in Tooele County, Utah on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of sites across the nation that are contaminated with hazardous substances, commonly known as Superfund Sites. If EPA lists U.S. Magnesium on the NPL, it would make the cleanup of this site a high priority nationally and would enable EPA and UDEQ to use Superfund authorities to clean up the site.

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**Once the EPA proposal to list the U.S. Magnesium site on the National Priorities List appears in the Federal Register, there will be a 60-day public comment period. Please see the back of this fact sheet to find out how to submit comments.**

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## Site Description and Background

The 4,525 acre U.S. Magnesium site is located in a lightly populated, industrial area, 40 miles west of Salt Lake City and 33 miles north of Grantsville. The current owners/operators are U.S. Magnesium, LLC and parent company Renco Group, Inc.

The site is adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, an area that has been designated as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and is being considered as a Wetland of International Importance. It is an ecosystem that attracts mil-

lions of birds per year and houses many unique plants and animals as well as certain species of federal and state concern.

The site has housed magnesium production since 1972. It uses brine from the Great Salt Lake as the raw material and produces a variety of wastes. There are areas of uncontrolled wastes on the property that investigations show are threatening the health of workers and the environment.

## Site Risks

EPA and UDEQ have been concerned about releases from the site to the environment for more than 15 years. Risk assessments show significant environmental and human health risks.

Contaminants consist of metals, acidic wastewater, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins/furans, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and chlorine gas. These contaminants pose both cancerous and non-cancerous health risks to both humans and wildlife and have been released into the air, soil, surface water, and groundwater.

Birds have been regularly observed in contact with or near contaminated areas on the site. Observations indicate that many waterfowl die after coming into contact with the contamination. Bird egg studies have documented concentrations of PCB and HCB in all eggs at or near the site. Additionally, the lake level has risen and flooded the site, creating an open conduit for contaminants to travel into the Great Salt Lake.

Dioxin, PCBs and HCB are present at levels potentially posing both cancer and non-cancer risks, including diabetes and immune system problems, to workers at the site.



**For more information, please contact:**

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Or go to our Website at:  
**[www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/ut/usmagnesium](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/ut/usmagnesium)**

**To comment on the EPA proposal to add U.S. Magnesium to the National Priorities List, please submit your comments, identified by FDMS Docket # EPA-HQ-SFUND-2008-0584, by using one of the following methods:**

- 1. Online go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.**
- 2. For written comments, please provide three copies plus the original to the following address:**

**Docket Coordinator, Headquarters  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
CERCLA Docket Office (Mail Code 5305T)  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460**

**Email: [superfund.docket@epa.gov](mailto:superfund.docket@epa.gov)  
Phone: 202-566-0276**

**Supporting documents for this proposed action are published in the Federal Register, or available at the following locations:**

**U.S. EPA  
Superfund Records Center  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
1-800-227-8917**

**UDEQ  
Records Center  
168 N. 1950 W.  
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(801) 536-4100**